In The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A mounting arrangement for at least one optical component ~~(14 to 18)~~ in a planar lightwave circuit, the arrangement ~~including~~ comprising:

[[-]] a substrate ~~(10)~~,

[[-]] an input optical fiber ~~(12)~~ associated with said substrate ~~(10)~~, ~~and~~

[[-]] an output optical waveguide ~~(20) manufactured~~ in a given set of planar layers of said substrate ~~(10)~~, and

[[-]] said at least one optical component ~~(14 to 18) mounted~~ being mountable on said substrate ~~(10)~~ to transmit optical radiation from said input optical fiber ~~(12)~~ to said output optical waveguide ~~(20)~~,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the arrangement comprises one of:

[[-]] a length of optical waveguide ~~(22) manufactured~~ on said substrate ~~(10)~~ in the same planar layers of said output optical waveguide ~~(20)~~, said length of optical waveguide ~~(22)~~ being interposed between said input optical fiber ~~(12)~~ and said at least one optical component ~~(14, 16, 18), whereby~~ so that said at least one optical component ~~(14, 16, 18) is~~ can be interposed between said length of optical waveguide ~~(22)~~ and said output optical waveguide (20), and

[[-]] a length of optical fiber ~~(24)~~ associated to said substrate ~~(10)~~ between said at least one optical component ~~(14, 16, 18)~~ and said output optical waveguide ~~(20), whereby~~ so that said at least one optical component ~~(14, 16, 18) is~~ can be interposed between said input optical fiber ~~(12)~~ and said length of optical fiber ~~(24)~~.

2. (Currently amended) The arrangement of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said substrate ~~(10)~~ is a silicon optical bench (SiOB) support ~~(10)~~.

3. (Currently amended) The arrangement of ~~either of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said substrate ~~(10) includes~~ comprises at least one V-groove ~~(12a, 24a) provided therein~~ for receiving at least one of said input optical fiber ~~(12)~~ and said length of optical fiber ~~(24)~~.

4. (Currently amended) The arrangement of claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ~~the~~ substrate ~~(10) includes~~ comprises respective V-grooves ~~(12a, 24a)~~ for receiving said input optical fiber ~~(12)~~ and said length of optical fiber ~~(24)~~, respectively, ~~and in that~~ said respective V-grooves ~~(12a, 24a) have~~ having the same geometry.

5. (Currently amended) The arrangement of claim 1, ~~characterized in that it includes~~ wherein said input optical fiber ~~(12)~~ is associated with said substrate ~~(10)~~ and said length of optical fiber ~~(24)~~, and ~~in that~~ wherein said input optical fiber ~~(12)~~ and said length of optical fiber ~~(24)~~ are from the same fiber batch.

6. (Currently amended) The arrangement of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said input optical fiber ~~(12)~~ and said length of optical fiber ~~(24)~~ have respective end surfaces, ~~and in that~~ said respective end surfaces ~~are provided with~~ comprising an anti-reflective coating.

7. (Currently amended) The arrangement of claim 1, ~~characterized in that it includes the~~ wherein said output optical waveguide ~~(20)~~ and said length of optical waveguide ~~(22)~~ are aligned along an input-to-output propagation path ~~and having respective end surfaces, and in that said end surfaces are offset to the perpendicular to said propagation path~~.

8. (Currently amended) The arrangement of claim 7, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein said respective end surfaces being are offset to the perpendicular to said input-to-output propagation path, the propagation path of radiation through said at least one optical component (14, 16, 18) is at an angle with respect to said main input-to-output propagation path.

9. (Currently amended) The arrangement of ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one optical component ~~(14 to 18) includes~~ comprises an optical isolator ~~(16) interposed between associated input (14) and output (18) optical systems~~.

10. (Currently amended) The arrangement of claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said optical isolator ~~(16)~~ is optimised for focused beams.

11. (Currently amended) The arrangement of ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one optical component ~~(14 to 18) includes~~ comprises an optical filter ~~(16) interposed between associated input (14) and output (18) optical systems~~.

12. (Currently amended) The arrangement of ~~any of claims 8 to 11, characterized in that said the respective input and output lenses (14, 18) are~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one optical component comprises at least one spherical or ball ~~lenses~~ lens.

13. (Currently amended) The arrangement of ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ claim 12, ~~said optical component includes at least one spherical or ball lens (14, 18) and in that~~ wherein said ~~the~~ substrate ~~(10) includes~~ comprises at least pyramidal hole ~~(14a)~~ for receiving said at least one spherical or ball lens ~~(14, 18)~~.

14. (Currently amended) The arrangement of ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said at least one optical component comprises a symmetrical optical system ~~(14, 16, 18)~~ having an internal image.